

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 16, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of synchronizing multi-site print ready document libraries, comprising:

publishing print-ready document library subject availability via multicast communication over a data network, wherein a print server facilitates multi-site print load balancing wherein said subject availability is predefined, wherein said print server gauges and determines respective print service sites' print load capacity, expertise required to print, and shipping and labor costs when facilitating said multi-site print load balancing;

managing source page description language (PDL) and storing decomposed PDL files as bitmapped files of said print ready document for consistent print results, management, storage and use of said print-ready document;

receiving subscriptions for print-ready document library subjects via point-to-point data communication over the data network from remote subscribers at individual sites wherein said subscriptions comprise a configuration file that functions as a lookup table for subjects subscribed to and interested in by said subscribers;

receiving document updates automatically, wherein only necessary data related to said predefined topics is synchronized with said remote subscribers located at specific sites;

maintaining a record of subscriber data, subject data and publication-subscription logs utilizing a publish-subscribe middleware wherein said publish-subscribe middleware enables at least one server and at least one database to operate together for management of said record;

printing said print-ready document at said individual sites; and

wherein communication is all accomplished via multicast to subscribers by publisher enterprise equipment.

Claims 2 through 15 were previously canceled.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for managing distributed multi-site print ready document libraries comprising:

- at least one database;

- at least one print ready document library wherein documents are assigned to predefined topics stored within said at least one database;

- a data network configured to publish availability of said predefined topics to a plurality of print service sites wherein said print service sites subscribe to at least one of said predefined topics a user is subscribed to or interested in utilizing a configuration file conveyed over said data network;

- at least one server configured to access said predefined topics stored within said at least one database;

- enterprise communication equipment comprising a router and a network access device, wherein a print server facilitates multi-site print load balancing, wherein said print server is configured to automatically send print-ready documents to said plurality of print service sites in accordance with said predefined topics that each of said plurality of print service sites subscribed to, respective print service sites' print load capacity, expertise required to print, and shipping and labor costs, wherein communication is accomplished via a multicast to subscribers by publisher enterprise equipment;

- management of source page description language (PDL) and storage of decomposed PDL files as bitmapped files of said print ready document for consistent print results, management, storage and use of said print-ready document;

- publish-subscribe middleware configured to enable said at least one server to operate in conjunction with said at least one database in order to manage subscriber data, topic data and publication-subscription logs and to receive automatic document updates, wherein only necessary data related to said predefined topics is synchronized with said remote subscribers located at specific sites; and

- at least one rendering device located at each of said print service sites configured to render said print-ready documents.

17. (Previously canceled)